

To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board  
From: Nancy Selman  
Date: September 26, 2003  
Re: Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2003

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. 10/14, 11/11, 12/9.  
In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

- 1) General Business – The August meeting minutes and the September update were approved.
- 2) Think Energy – The Advisory Board approved the cost of \$6590 to add 5 colleges and universities to the program for educational institutions (the original budget was for only two schools). A request was made by a Board member to add the New England Institute of Technology to the group. It was noted that the designation for the group in the September Update be changed to reflect the fact that there are both colleges and universities in the group.
- 3) Request from South Providence Development Corporation (SPDC) – The Advisory Board voted to fund \$7500 towards a computer system system for an Energies Exhibit. SPDC installed a 10 kW PV system earlier this year with a \$100,000 grant from the Fund.
- 4) Smartpower – Brian Keane made a presentation about the work Smartpower is doing in Connecticut. Brian will return next month to make a second presentation and proposal to the Fund to perform the same type of outreach in RI as CT and to be initiated in MA shortly. Smartpower was created by CT Clean Energy Fund and five private foundations. Its mission is to provide a marketing campaign for renewable energy by mobilizing non-profit groups. Smartpower's goal is to mainstream renewable energy and increase its use in the states in which Smartpower operates to 20% by 2010. Clean Air, Healthy Communities, and Energy Independence is the current message but this may change when the CESA campaign is completed as Smartpower is one of the funder/participants in that work. It is anticipated that Smartpower would incorporate the CESA campaign messages into its outreach. The strategies Smartpower uses are marketing and collaboration:
  - a) Marketing – ads and outreach
  - b) Collaboration – Organize and recruit early adopters in the following sectors: faith based, environmental community, businesses and institutions, municipalities. Smartpower works through the Inter-religious Eco-Justice Network, the Clean Water Fund and Environment Northeast.
  - c) In CT, Smartpower had to switch from selling green power to selling tags and pledges when CT's two green power marketers left the market. Smartpower also hired lobbyist to get legislated utility green power program (similar to GreenUp in RI) by January 2004. Smartpower has had quite a bit of success on all fronts in New Haven: the City of New

Haven, Yale Divinity School, Yale student organizations, Yale School of Forestry have all pledged to purchase green power.

- 5) GreenUp Program - David Jacobson provided an update on the GreenUp Service program being introduced by Narragansett Electric in RI. The GreenUp ballot being used in MA was passed out and ballot design was discussed, as well as disclosure and other marketing issues. The marketers have asked that a meeting be held by the Fund to discuss what marketing measures can be taken to increase participation in GreenUp. Narragansett, at the request of the marketers, has pushed out the GreenUp introduction date until January 2004.
- 6) GreenUp Service Filing Comments by Fund to the Public Utilities Commission - The draft comments were approved with some changes.
- 7) Changes in Small Customer Program – Changes to the Small Customer RFP were explained by Bob Grace. These changes had been discussed with the marketers by teleconference. The changes involved clarifications, streamlining, improvements:
  - a) Clarifications and updates necessitated by Narragansett's GreenUp program; highlights include updating to reflect Green-e activity in this area and clarification of eligibility of GreenUp offerings.
  - b) Streamlining to ease administration of the program and verification of marketers' performance leading to incentive payments; highlights include lowering of the small customer incentive to be equal to the residential incentive (i.e., changed to \$125); reporting on a quarterly basis and waiver of credit support requirements so long as certain Narragansett program requirements help ensure longevity of marketers in GreenUp.
  - c) Improvements in the program; highlights include changing eligibility (supply location) for TRC offerings from New England supply to "supply verified by source specific NEPOOL GIS certificates". This change was proposed to make the Fund program consistent with GreenUp and Green-e eligibility requirements. Other highlighted changes are: a requirement for price/content stability for 9 months; limits on paying incentives for customers who switch GreenUp suppliers; and consent for Narragansett to release information to the Fund for verification purposes.
  - d) The Board accepted the changes recommended by Bob Grace.
- 8) Community Energy – Large Customer RFP – Community Energy is preparing a response to the Large Customer RFP and has requested that the Fund consider relaxing the New England supply requirement to allow Fund support for products (RECs) from NY and states such as PA in the PJM (Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland interchange). They further requested that NEPOOL GIS certificates not be required for verification of import and displacement of New England generation. The Board accepted Bob Grace's recommendation to replace the New England supply constraint with NEPOOL GIS verification, consistent with the Small Customer RFP. This will allow marketers to import RECs from non-New England sources as long as NEPOOL GIS certificates are created as a result for verification.

### Decisions

- 1) The Board approved an additional cost of \$6590 for Think Energy to expand the college and university program to 8 schools (from 2) with the condition that the New England Institute of Technology be added to the group.
- 2) The Board approved a \$7500 grant to the South Providence Development Corporation for a computer system for an Energy Exhibit.
- 3) SmartPower was asked to submit a proposal to the Fund for outreach activities.
- 4) The Board approved the comments to the PUC on the GreenUp filing with changes.
- 5) The Board approved changes in both Small and Large Customer RFPs recommended by consultants.

### Actions/Followup

- 1) Inform Think Energy of increased contract amount - \$6590.
- 2) Write a grant letter to South Providence Development Corporation.
- 3) Schedule Smartpower presentation of proposal for October meeting.
- 4) Make changes in comments to the PUC concerning the GreenUp filing and submit.
- 5) Make recommended changes in Small and Large Customer RFPs.

## **Attendance**

Buck, Roger

D'Ovidio, Christopher

Grace, Bob

Hartley, Doug

Hill, Michael

Jacobson, David

Keane, Brian, Smartpower

Lueker, Bill

McClanaghan, Janice

Moskal, John

Rose, Vin

Selman, Nancy

Stearns, David

Stephens, Erich

Teichert, Kurt

Vild, Bruce